

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, September 9, 1999

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray, Almighty God, that our minds and hearts would be open to the gifts of the spirit so that our daily experiences are not only the necessary duties that must be done, but that we would see more clearly the blessings of the spirit. Grant us new insight so we behold the gifts of wonder and beauty in Your creation and the marvelous gifts of love and grace and peace. Give us, we pray, a new vision of the meaning of justice that deals with the needs of every person and helps bring us all together in respect and dignity. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOGGETT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. McDevitt, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed without amendment a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 457. An act to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the amount of leave time available to a Federal employee in any year in connection with serving as an organ donor, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 2670. An act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to

the bill (H.R. 2670) "An Act making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereon, and appoints Mr. GREGG, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. INOUE, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. MIKULSKI, and Mr. BYRD, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate had passed a bill of the following title in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1076. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance programs providing health care and other benefits for veterans, to authorize major medical facility projects, to reform eligibility for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain 15 1-minutes on each side.

THE BUREAUCRATIC DAY-DREAMERS AT THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND ARE AT IT AGAIN

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the bureaucratic daydreamers at the International Monetary Fund are at it again. They are exploring the far reaches of reality and resorting to voodoo economics.

My home State of Nevada is the largest gold producing State in the Nation. This vital industry helps put food on the table, buy homes, send kids to colleges for thousands of Nevada families. The trouble has been on the horizon for the past several months as the IMF has been scheming to dump part of their gold reserve on to the open market in an effort to hide its debt losses.

Their latest debt forgiveness scheme is nothing more than smoke and mirrors and voodoo economics.

The gold scheme sale will lead to a disrupted and flooded commodity market which translates into a plummeting economy for many countries. The reality in Nevada is still the same. It will cause more mines in North America to begin closing at an even

more alarming pace and thousands of America's hardest working men and women will be out of work, unable to feed their families; all because of the IMF.

Congress has the power to stop this ill-conceived IMF scheme and I urge my colleagues to oppose the voodoo economics of this taxpayer giveaway.

A WHOLE NEW POLICY ON TERRORISM IN AMERICA: IF TERRORISTS APOLOGIZE, THEY ARE SET FREE

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Madam Speaker, 12 terrorists from Puerto Rico who are responsible for 130 bombings in America, killing 6 Americans and wounding many more have been pardoned by the President. Now, if that is not enough to get away with murder, check this out: to get the pardon, the terrorists had to promise to give up violence. Unbelievable, Madam Speaker.

A whole new policy on terrorism in America. If terrorists apologize, they are set free. Beam me up, Madam Speaker.

An America that pardons terrorists is an America that invites more terrorism. I yield back the pain and suffering of their victims and their families.

DEMOCRATS DO NOT TRUST AMERICANS TO SPEND THEIR OWN MONEY THE RIGHT WAY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Madam Speaker, many Democrats have stated that tax cuts would be risky. Well, of course they would. They believe the average Americans, to quote the President, might not spend it right.

Is this not the perfect expression of a liberal mindset? They really do believe that money that people earn does not really belong to them. They do not trust people to spend it right, whatever that means. After all, we all know that Washington knows best. It seems clear to me that Democrats do not quite agree with the proposition that rich or poor the money people earn belongs to them, not the Government.

In fact, liberals imply that any time the Government cuts taxes, it is doing

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.